

COMMITTEE ON
ARMED SERVICESCOMMITTEE ON
FOREIGN RELATIONSCOMMITTEE ON
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4605

May 8, 2009

The Honorable Daniel Inouye
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
S 131 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Vice Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
S 146 A The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Herb Kohl
Chairman
Subcommittee on Agriculture
SD 129
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sam Brownback
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Agriculture
SD 190
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Inouye, Senator Cochran, Senator Kohl, and Senator Brownback:

As you initiate your efforts to draft the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2010, I respectfully request your consideration of the following projects, listed in alphabetical order. I make these requests jointly with my colleague, The Honorable Mark R. Warner, who is conveying these requests under separate cover.

These requests are submitted in accordance with the proper constitutional role that Congress performs in the federal appropriations process. I examined these projects for the Commonwealth of Virginia based on two principle factors: first, they must represent a wise and prudent investment of tax dollars; second, requests for such projects are considered in an open, transparent manner.

In formulating this submission, my staff has gone to extraordinary lengths to screen all requests carefully to validate their merits. This process included face-to-face meetings in nearly all cases to assess and evaluate the projects of requesting entities.

Eastern Shore Broadband Buildout, Eastern Shore of Virginia Broadband Authority, Counties of Northampton and Accomack, VA - \$2,000,000

- Funding will be used for the installation of main fiber optic lines on the Eastern Shore, in Accomack and Northampton Counties, Virginia.

Open Access Fiber Optic Broadband Deployment on the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula areas of Virginia, The Virginia Office of Telework Promotion and Broadband Assistance, Richmond, VA - \$1,000,000

- Funding will be used to facilitate the delivery of broadband level applications to Virginia communities on the Northern Neck and Middle Peninsula by providing

broadband infrastructure. Specifically, funding will be used to obtain and install equipment and infrastructure necessary for the deployment of broadband infrastructure that brings highspeed Internet service to Virginia homes and businesses.

Project Bluebird, Page County Broadband Authority, Page County, VA - \$500,000

- Funding will be used to facilitate economic and community development in Page County by investing in broadband infrastructure that will lay the foundation for and enable private provider service expansion. Page County is a rural community with a very high unemployment rate of 11.7% and low average wages. The county has a critical need for enhanced communication for the healthcare sector, public safety personnel, and for economic development purposes. The construction of a high-speed fiber broadband network will allow Page County to create jobs, effectively compete with other communities across the nation to attract new business, and enhance the quality of life for its residents.

Biodesign and Processing Research Center at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA - \$500,000

- Funding will be used to enhance the capabilities and economic viability of farmers by conducting cutting-edge basic and applied research for the conversion of agricultural crops, agricultural, and animal wastes to value-added products such as fuels, bio-oils, fertilizers, and other industrial products.

High Value Horticulture and Forestry Crops at the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research, Danville, VA - \$500,000

- Funding will support agriculture research in the areas of bio-based products and bio-energy production, plant-based biological compounds and processing technologies, molecular and tissue culture capabilities, and high value horticulture and forestry programs.

Inland Marine Aquaculture at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA - \$500,000

- Funding will provide technical and scientific assistance to firms engaged in commercial seafood aquaculture production. The firms are located in economically depressed regions of the state and should result in significant economic development and the creation of new employment opportunities in communities where many people were once employed in the textile, furniture, mining, and tobacco industries. Specifically, funding will be used for systems engineering; food processing and safety; nutrition; fish and shellfish health; fishery biology; and laboratory supplies.

Sustainable Engineered Materials from Renewable Resources at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA - \$500,000

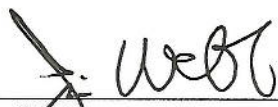
- Funding will support the creation of a design-evaluation-implementation system for development of new composite building products and assessing the economic viability of newly identified products and forest management strategies. Focus

will be linkages between intensive forest management practices to advanced wood and cellulose composite technology for development of innovative products from renewable raw materials

I certify to the best of my knowledge that neither I, nor my immediate family, has a pecuniary interest in any of the congressional directed spending items requested, consistent with the requirements of paragraph 9 of Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate. I further certify that I have posted a description of the items requested on my official website, along with the accompanying justification.

I appreciate your consideration of these important initiatives and look forward to working closely with you on behalf of the citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Should you or your staff have any questions regarding these requests please do not hesitate to contact my office. Thank you for your consideration of these requests.

Sincerely,



Jim Webb
United States Senator